REMARKS

The foregoing amendments are made to the <u>modified claims</u> as presented in the report of the International Preliminary Examination.

These amendments remove all multiple dependencies from the claims, including certain dependencies that may be indefinite according to U.S. practice. The amendments thus place all claims in condition for examination on the merits, and avoid the need for paying the surcharge for submitting a multiple-dependent claim.

The applicants request entry of this amendment before calculating the total amount of filing fee, and await examination in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

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